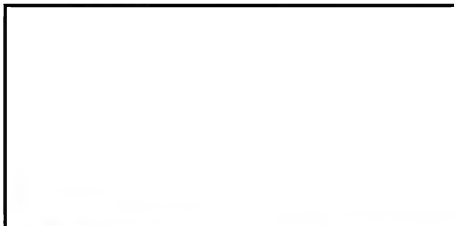


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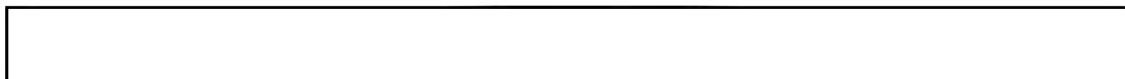


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France--Western Europe: [Reports are still circulating that De Gaulle is planning a new initiative to further European political confederation.]

[Such an initiative would be politically useful to De Gaulle at this time, and would be designed to exploit the favorable atmosphere created by the recent EEC agreements on farm and trade policies. De Gaulle could use his January press conference to launch any new plan he may have in mind.]

[According to these reports, De Gaulle has devised a formula for a European "confederation" which provides for the gradual establishment of a continental parliament and executive by 1970. Although limited, the powers of these institutions would be sufficiently broad to attract support from the advocates of a fully integrated Europe.]

[The other EEC countries can be expected to take a very hard look at any new scheme De Gaulle might advance. Nevertheless, there have been indications in recent weeks of reviving interest in Bonn, Rome, and Brussels in the possibility of some step toward political union.]

[Ambassador MacArthur in Brussels believes that Paul-Henri Spaak, whom the French have reportedly been cultivating lately, would feel a strong impulse to go along with a De Gaulle proposal which could be considered a first step toward effective political unity.]

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USSR: [Khrushchev may visit Africa and Asia in the next few months, partly to undercut Chou En-lai's current tour.]

[According to Egyptian Foreign Minister Fawzi, Khrushchev will arrive in the UAR between 9 and 13 January. He has accepted invitations from Ceylon and Nepal and may visit India in January or February. The USSR reportedly has solicited an invitation from Pakistan for Khrushchev to stop in Karachi during a trip through South Asia.]

[The Soviet leader probably views such "good-will" tours as an effective means of competing with the Chinese Communists for influence in Africa and Asia. The heavy publicity attending such visits, moreover, would give the appearance of forward motion in Soviet foreign policy.]

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*Berlin: (According to late press reports, West Berlin has accepted informal Communist proposals to negotiate an extension of the agreement which allows West Berliners to visit East Berlin.)

(Earlier, Mayor Brandt was reported inclined to favor such negotiations, but only after a "pause" following the 5 January expiration of the present agreement.)

(Brandt was thinking in terms of a meeting between West Berlin and East German technical representatives sometime late next month. He also has in mind extending the present arrangement to cover special occasions in the future, such as Easter, and proceeding from there to a more permanent agreement.)

(Erhard, in a press conference on his return to Bonn, apparently did not oppose, in principle, arrangements for expanded contacts with East Berlin and East Germany. He did, however, warn against "complications" if West Berlin city officials attempted to assume responsibilities for negotiating such arrangements.)

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NOTES

Greece: King Paul has named a caretaker cabinet to hold new parliamentary elections on 16 February. He has thus given in to ex-Premier Papandreou, whose Center Union elected 138 of 300 deputies in the 3 November elections and who expects to win a solid majority of seats this time. The King and Panagiotis Kanellopoulos, leader of the opposition National Radical Union, had advocated the creation of a coalition government to deal with the Cyprus crisis, but Papandreou refused to permit his party to participate.

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Cambodia: Broadcasts purporting to be the "voices" of movements for neutralism and nationalism in South Vietnam and Thailand were heard in the area for the first time on 29 December. While these broadcasts could be a Viet Cong effort, they sound more like an operation mounted by Prince Sihanouk. They are on frequencies close to those normally used by the Cambodian government radio, have used primarily Cambodian language, and follow closely Sihanouk's argumentation on neutrality and the future of Southeast Asia.

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